



Date: April 21, 2006
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending April 21, 2006

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending April 21, 2006. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

Community Development Advisory Commission

Eight individuals and/or groups were honored for their Community Development Block Grant volunteer service at the National Community Development Week awards ceremony on April 18. The categories included: Community Service, Individual Achievement, Outstanding Neighborhood Project, Code Enforcement Partner, Business Partner, Youth Achievement, and the David Landry Community Service Memorial Award. Two hundred people attended, including elected officials, HUD representatives, community volunteers, and City staff.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Cambodian New Year Celebration, with an estimated attendance of 15,000, was held at El Dorado Park on April 15. The Cambodian New Year Parade and Celebration, with an estimated attendance of 7,000, was held on Anaheim St. and at MacArthur Park on April 16.

Library Services

The national *Raising A Reader* (RAR) Literacy Program, with approximately 100 programs in Long Beach, was recently profiled as a best practice and model program in a Harvard Family Research Project brief presented at the 2006 National PTA Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. The program, which began in California and spread to 24 states and three countries, is designed to encourage low-income parents with limited literacy and English skills to read to their young children.

Locally, the 12-week RAR programs have been held at 12 library locations and at more than 50 community organizational partner's off-site locations. More than 60 organizations have expressed an interest in participating in the program. Funds for the Raising A Reader project are provided through the Long Beach Public Library Foundation with grants from various foundations, organizations, and individuals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Health and Human Services

The Long Beach Women's Health Summit, *Women Through The Ages*, will be held **Saturday, April 22**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at California State University, Long Beach. Women of all ages are invited to celebrate women's health, attend free workshops on a variety of health topics and receive free health screenings. Department staff will present workshops on conquering depression and family disaster planning, host an information booth, and provide information on disaster/bioterrorism preparedness. Other workshops will include topics on self-esteem, breast cancer, mammograms, Medicare Part D, infant care, and many other health and family related topics. For more information on the Summit and free transportation, please visit www.lbwhs.blogspot.com.

Public Works

As part of its ongoing Litter Abatement and Awareness Campaign, the City of Long Beach is sponsoring a neighborhood litter cleanup on Earth Day, **Saturday, April 22**. This all-volunteer event will be devoted to the beautification of the City's Anaheim Street Corridor and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end with a BBQ and awards presentation from noon to 1:30 pm. Volunteers can check-in and register at any of these locations: Rescue Mission Thrift Store, 313 Pine Avenue; Barr Lumber, 2541 E. Anaheim Street; MacArthur Park, 321 E. Anaheim Street.

Police Department

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

A Business Watch meeting for businesses located on Atlantic Avenue between 55th and 60th Streets will be held on **Monday, April 24**, 8:30 a.m. at 5641 Atlantic Avenue. The commercial corridor is a focal point of revitalization in the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine

The 2006 Misty May Beach Volleyball Clinic will be held on **Saturday, April 29** from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the sand courts located west of the Belmont Plaza Pool. Girls and boys ages 10-18 are invited to attend. Tuition for the half-day camp is \$90.00 per student and pre-registration is required. Call 544-4784 for details. For more information, visit www.lbparks.org or call 570-3100.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Community Development and Police

Detective Craig Newland provided 32 residents with information on Megan's Law and how to access the California Department of Justice's website at the *Megan's Law* workshop held April 17 at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Detective Newland also provided information on ways to protect residents and children from sex offenders and child predators. Currently in California, there are 63,000 registered sex offenders on the website. Long Beach has approximately 900-registered sex offenders, with about 660 currently listed on the on-line database. For more information, visit www.meganslaw.ca.gov or contact the Sex Crimes Detail at 570.7368.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Police

Residents are encouraged to call the Gang Hotline, 800.426.4847, to report gang activity and call 570.2773 to report graffiti. Callers will remain anonymous.

Citywide, police officers responded to 716 priority one, 1,521 priority two, and 1,200 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3,437 responses.

Over the past six months, Narcotics Detectives have been working with DEA on a major drug trafficking operation involving gang members. Several search warrants were conducted and all warrant locations were successful.

Vice Detectives conducted a *Shoulder Tap Operation*, a minor decoy program to find individuals who buy alcohol for minors, at eight separate licensed locations in the East Division. Out of the 52 individuals who were asked to buy alcohol for minors, two were issued citations.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services

More than 500 residents of the Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area attended a special event organized by members of the Madres Unidas neighborhood organization and City staff on April 15. The day's activities included a soccer tournament, information tables for parents, arts and crafts for children, an egg hunt and a barbeque. The 1st and 7th Council District offices, Parks, Recreation and Marine, the Long Beach Firefighters Association Local 372, Centro CHA, the Westside Foundation for Community Relations, the Samoan Community Council and the Cesar Chavez Soccer League supported the event. Email Gilberto_Contreras@longbeach.gov for more information about the Lower West NIS Area.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

More than 250 youth, ages 6-9, participated in El Dorado Nature Center's Spring Break workshops, April 17 through April 21. Classes focused on water quality, flight, zoo animals, predators, and use of plants by early Indians in this region.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

More than 2,000 youth participated in arts and crafts, sports, games, cooking classes, and field trips at *Spring Fun Days* held at 25 City parks.

Approximately 500 teens from California Recreation Center, Cesar Chavez, El Dorado, Houghton, and Silverado Parks participated in *Spring Thang*, a weeklong program that provided positive activities for teens during spring break, April 18 through April 22.

More than 3,000 youth and family members participated in *Spring Egg Hunts* held at five regional parks and nine community centers throughout Long Beach on April 15. In addition to the egg hunts, several activities including table games, arts and crafts, photos with Peter Cotton Tail, and prize giveaways entertained the participants.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

Beach Tennis USA, with an estimated attendance of 2,000, was held at the Belmont Shore beach on April 21.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The interior shower walls at Silverado Park Pool have been completed. Tile work has been started on the pool deck and the bottom of the pool. Exterior building work is ongoing.

The rubberized play surface at Lilly Park is completed and the ADA improvement project is 95 per cent complete. The ADA improvements at Colorado Lagoon South are completed, with a completion inspection scheduled for April 21.

The planting has been completed at the Cesar Chavez Amphitheater.

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

Staff has completed a total of 2,980 service calls, including 1,062 Water Utility Turn Ons and 712 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,020 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 186 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 409 emergency phone calls that resulted in 96 emergency orders being sent out.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Regulator Station Rebuild

Contact: 570.2060

Colorado Street and Nieto Ave.

Estimated Completion:

May

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

20th St.

Hill St.

Caspian Ave.

Baltic Ave.

East of Santa Fe Avenues

Estimated completion:

July

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

Contact: 570.2060

Gateway West area

Between Maine Ave. & Pacific Ave.

Between 6th St & 3rd St.

Estimated Completion:

July

